

NEWS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Communications News Room 460-A
Washington, DC 20250-1300
Internet: News@usda.gov Phone: 202-720-9035
World Wide Web Home Page:
<http://www.usda.gov>

Release No. 0110.98

Laura Trivers (202) 720-4623
ltrivers@usda.gov

USDA TO HOST FARM FORUMS

WASHINGTON, March 9, 1998--Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger will host a series of forums in early April to talk about production agriculture.

"Two years after enactment of the Farm Bill -- and the historic changes it brought to production agriculture -- I want to talk to farmers and ranchers about how they're doing. It's time to take care of the unfinished business of the Farm Bill and see what else we at USDA can do to strengthen the farm safety net while moving toward a more market-oriented farm policy," Glickman said.

"The Farm Bill is finally getting government out of the day-to-day business of dictating what and how much farmers should plant. This past year, with exports and farm prices fairly strong, the new system worked quite well, but 1998 is shaping up to be a different story," Glickman said. "Farmers have been hit hard by El Nino, and strong world crop production and an economic crisis in Asia have brought prices down."

Glickman and Rominger encourage farmers and ranchers to attend these farm forums.

Glickman will host forums in Kentucky, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Iowa. Rominger will host forums in Maine; Florida, California; and then join the Secretary in Iowa.

Additional details and dates will be available in the coming weeks.

#

NOTE: USDA news releases and media advisories are available on the Internet. Access the USDA Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.usda.gov>